Ravi—Beas Water Dispute

360. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ravi—Beas water dispute among Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana has not been settled so far and Rajasthan is using excess water;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Chief Minister of Rajasthan has appealed to the Punjab Chief Minister not to reopen the issue;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in finding a solution to the dispute; and

(d) what is the present position and what efforts have been made/steps contemplated to solve the issue amicably?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) (c) and (d) There is no Ravi-Beas Water dispute so far as Rajasthan is concerned. The Ravi-Beas Water dispute between Punjab and Haryana was referred to a Tribunal, constituted under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956, on 2.4.1986. On the Report given by the Tribunal the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rasiasthan and the Central Government has sought explanation and guidance on certain points from the Tribnal. Rajasthan's utilisation of Ravi-Beas waters is not in excess of its share invisaged in the 1981 inter-State agreement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

World Bank Assistance for Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Projects

361. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that assistance from World Bank was obtained for implementing the Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Projects under an agreement signed in 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An agreement between Government of India and the World Bank was signed on June 10, 1991 for International Development Association Credit of Special Drawing Rights of 96.2 million and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Loan of US $ 23 million for Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Project. The Project would strengthen existing agencies responsible for dam safety assurance in the Central Government and the four States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, including upgrading standards and procedures for dam safety inspections and reviews. Rehabilitation work would be carried out at selected sites and basic safety facilities would be upgraded at important existing dams. Hydro-meteorological data collection and early flood warning systems will be installed at one or more river basins involving inter-State operations.

Setting up of advisory group by National Water Development Agency

362. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Advisory Group has been set up for doing economic evaluation of the proposals formulated by the National Water Development Agency for inter-basin transfer of water; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made by the group?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) An Advisory Group on economic evaluation of the proposals for inter-basin transfers was set up in

March, 1990 with Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Studies, Bombay as its Chairman.

(b) The Group in its meetings considered the recommendations of a sub-Group of experts constituted to evolve various methodologies and procedure for economic evaluation of the proposals for water transfer links prepared by National Water Development Agency (NWDA). The recommendations inter-alia suggest that to start with NWDA may evaluate the economic internal rate of return with market rates for both inputs and outputs and that the cost and benefit may be evaluated with and without project scenario to indicate economic viability of the proposals.

Water Resource Assessment made by the National Water Development Agency

363. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any water resource assessment for the entire basins of the country was made by the National Water Development Agency or by any other committee; and

(b) what is the quantum of surplus water available in all the basins and the acres of land likely to be irrigated with this surplus water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Central Water Commission has assessed the availability of surface water resources in the country from time to time based on the intest available data.

(b) In the National Water Perspective, additional water that can be utilisted through inter-basin transfers was estimated as 22 million hectares-metres to benefit 35 million hectares of land. This National Water Development Agency has undertaken studies to firm up these figures.

Checking up of erosion by river Ganga

364. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that parts of National Highway 34 are threatened with erosion by Ganga;

(b) whether Indian Territory is being lost in Murshidabad (West Bengal) and land formation is taking place on the left bank to benefit Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the erosion?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No parts of National Highway 34 are presently threatened with erosion by Ganga;

(b) and (c) There is no permanent loss of Indian territory. However on temporary basis some land is not available for use by India due to erosion of right bank by Ganga. The situation changes from time to time and a stable situation is unlikely due to meandering nature of the river in the Murshidabad reach. Schemes costing Rs. 587.58 lakhs have been executed to prevent severe erosion near Akhriganj.

Major and medium irrigation projects in the country

365. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects at present in the country;

(b) whether some of these projects are running behind schedule resulting in cost-escalation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?